

February 28, 1975

of the child who is placed in a potentially harmful situation or abusive situation. As I understand the section that Senator Goodrich cited from the federal law, I don't think that that would mandate his amendment at all. It says, as I understand it, that you have to have a law that requires cooperation between all governmental agencies and I think that this amendment as amended would do that. I move the adoption of this amendment to the Marsh amendment.

SPEAKER: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: I would willingly accept this amendment. I think this makes my amendment even a better amendment.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: What the problem we are faced with is, Senator Cavanaugh apparently hasn't read the statute itself. What the statutes now provide, John, is that the report shall first go to the police. They shall investigate, if they feel that there is an emergency situation. If they don't feel that it is an emergency situation, they shall report it to the child abuse people. This is the way it is being done right now. Now, what is happening and the reason, for example, my whole effort in this bill is that police report whatever they get in the way of investigations to the child abuse people. The child abuse people do not, and they absolutely refuse to reciprocate and let the police know what's going on. What they do is they just investigate, the social workers, themselves, investigate and make...take whatever action they feel is necessary but they won't cooperate with the police department. Now that's the whole purpose of my amendment is so that the child abuse people have now got to reciprocate and report to the police whatever they find out. My amendment, and if you reject both of these amendments and adopt mine, we'll have, have for the picture, and I will repeat it again, so that a log is made in the police station. All calls are entered on the log. Let's say they receive a hundred calls. If they feel, for example, there is a crisis situation, they will investigate, probably, half of those calls. The entire log, including a copy of the report of those that they investigate, are then forwarded to the child abuse people the next day. They can take whatever action they feel is necessary, investigate it, do anything they want to. My amendment also provides that when the child abuse people get a call, whatever action they take shall be reported to the police department, also, so the police know what's going on and if we have a case of sexual assault or a beating, as Senator Cavanaugh refers to, then, at least, the police will know about it. Right now the child abuse people don't...absolutely do not report to the police what they find. Consequently, the police records are incomplete. There could be a rape and nobody in the police department even know about it. I, as far as skulking around in these halls down here, the police department is not skulking around in these halls down here. I have had three conversations with the police department. I happen to represent Omaha so I am representing the police department. They depend on their conversations with me to carry the message to the Legislature of what they want. I also would remind the body that the Nebraska State...State Nebraska...Nebraska State PTA is also another organization who is wholeheartedly behind my amendment to this bill.